

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1901

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PROP, SO, CH
SUBJ: VISIT OF CHINESE VICE-PREMIER

REF: MOGADISCIO 1732

1. THE VISIT OF CHINESE VICE-PREMIER CHEN MU HUA TO THE SDR WAS LARGELY CEREMONIAL BUT HER PROGRESS PROVIDED OCCASIONS FOR BOTH SOMALIS AND CHINESE TO RAISE FAVORITE SUBJECTS -- INCLUDING MUCH TWEAKING OF THE SOVIETS. THE VISIT WAS GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY, AND CLEARLY THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF ENTHUSIASM ON THE SOMALI SIDE. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN LITTLE OF THE NATURE OF WHAT SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS DID TAKE PLACE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND FROM THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF CHINESE AID FOR PROJECTS LEFT UNFINISHED BY THE SOVIETS.

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2. DURING HER VISIT, CHEN MU-HUA KEPT A BRISK SCHEDULE, AND THE SOMALIS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO MAKE A DEMONSTRABLE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT. DURING THE COURSE OF HER VISIT, THE CHINESE DELEGATION VISITED SEVERAL CHINESE-BUILT FACILITIES IN AND NEAR MOGADISCIO, TRAVELLED TO BURAO FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 970 KILOMETER BELET-WAYNE-BURAO ROAD BUILT BY THE CHINESE, AND VISITED

THE JUBA VALLEY.

3. THE PUBLIC SPEECHES MADE ON THE OCCASION OF A BANQUET AT VILLA SOMALIA GIVEN BY THE VICE PRESIDENT ISMAIL ALI ABOKOR WERE NEITHER EXCEPTIONAL NOR INDICATIVE OF ANY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN THE SINO-SOMALI RELATIONSHIP. CHEN MU HUA'S SPEECH INCLUDED A LAUDATORY REFERENCE TO THE SOMALI EXPULSION OF THE SOVIETS LAST NOVEMBER, AND ACCUSED THE "LATE-COMING SUPERPOWER" OF BEING ANXIOUS TO "LAY ITS HANDS ON AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST." MOST OF THE SPEECH, HOWEVER, WAS DEVOTED TO REASSURANCES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION OF CHINA AND SOMALIA, AND THE USUAL COMPLIEMENTS TO THE HOST COUNTRY. VICE PRESIDENT ISMAIL ALI ABOKOR'S SPEECH WAS SIMILARLY UNEDIFYING, CONTAINING MORE ASSURANCES OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND THE THIRD WORLD TIES HELD IN COMMON. ABOKOR'S SPEECH ALSO CONTAINED DIRECT REFERENCES TO A DIRECT CONDEMNATION OF "SOVIET AND CUBAN NAKED INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS FOR DOMINATION AND INFLUENCE," AND SOMALI VIEWS ON A RESOLUTION OF THE HORN CONFLICT, ALL HEARD BEFORE.

4. THE ONE COMMITMENT WHICH WE KNOW THE CHINESE MADE IS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE DAM AT FANOLE, IN THE JUBA VALLEY, A PROJECT STARTED BY THE SOVIETS. THIS, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BEFORE THE VISIT OF CHEN MU
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HUA.
VOUGHT

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